Discrimination against girls in free education

766. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for girls having one or more sisters are discriminated under free education for single girl child scheme whose core objective is welfare of girls and whether Government want to penalize girls having more than one sister for the act of their parents in which they have no say whether these girls do not require more support from Government;

(b) the steps planned to desist attempts by the private schools affiliated with CBSE to discourage enrolment of girls; and

(c) whether 50 per cent seats would be reserved for girl child in order to impart free education for single girl child?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The Delhi High Court has, *vide an* interim Order of 20.1.2006 stayed, till the next date of hearing, the'implementation of Circular dated 18.10.2005 issued by the Central Board of Secondary Education, directing its affiliated schools to provide fee waiver to girl students who are the only child of their parents. The matter is *subjudice*.

Reservation for girls in schools

767. SHRI R.K. ANAND^Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Advisory Board of Education committee on girl education had recommended 50 per cent reservation at the entry level for girls in regular schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentives provided to encourage girls education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) A committee of Central Advisory Board of Education on Girls Education and Common School System in its report submitted in June, 2005 has recommended that "girls students should have regular and real schooling and not to be accommodated somehow in a part time programme or alternative systems in a multi-track approach. Girls deserve to have upto

50% of the seats reserved for them at the entry points of the regular schools".

(c) Some of the incentives provided under "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" to encourage girls' education at elementary level are as follows:—

(i) Free textbooks for girls upto class VIII within the ceiling limit of Rs. 150 per child.

(ii) Separate toilets for girls.

(iii) At least 50% of the teachers to be appointed should be women.

(iv) The National Programme for Education of Girls at the Elementary Level (NPEGEL) provides for development of a "model school" in every cluster with intensive community mobilization and supervision of girls enrolment in schools. Gender sensitization of teachers, development of gender-sensitive learning materials, and provision of need based incentives like escorts, stationery, work books and uniforms are some of the endeavours under the programme.

(v) Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV), a new scheme for setting up of residential schools with boarding facilities at elementary level.

Some of the incentives provided by the Central Government at secondary level are as under:—

(i) All girl students who are single children of their parents appearing in the merit list of All India Pre-Medical Test (AIPMT) and All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) and pursuing medical/engineering courses in institutes participating in AIPMT/ AIEEE or in the Central Government controlled or aided institutions will be eligible for scholarship.

(ii) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan provides hostel facility for girls.

(iii) 33% of the seats in Navodaya Vidyalayas are reserved for girls.

(iv) Under the Scheme "Access & Equity" assistance is provided for strengthening of boarding and hostel facilities for girls.